

REMARKS

Claims 16-19 are pending in the application. Claims 16-19 have been amended to clarify that the oligonucleotide consists of from 17 to 35 nucleotides complementary to a genomic region or gene. No new matter has been added. Each presently maintained rejection is addressed below.

As a preliminary matter, however, Applicants would like to thank Examiner McDonald for the interview with Applicants' lawyer on October 14, 2011. During the interview it was agreed that Applicants' Amendment after final rejection had overcome the portion of the rejection related to the claims not excluding endogenous mammalian chromosomal "genomic regions." It was also agreed that the amendments made herein would be made, and would overcome the presently maintained rejections as they relate to SEQ ID NO:63 of Bennett. The Examiner noted, however, that a new search may be made.

Obviousness

Claims 16-19 are rejected as being obvious over the combination of Matulic-Adamic et al., Zhang et al., and Temsamani et al. in view of Bennett et al. ("Bennett"). The rejection has also been maintained because the term "is complementary to a genomic region" has been interpreted as reading on nucleotides 12-18 of Bennett's SEQ ID No:63, which are asserted to be complementary to nucleotides 680-686 of HIV-1 (Genebank accession AF033819.3).

Claims 16-19 have been amended to clarify that the oligonucleotide consists of 17-35 nucleotides complementary to the specified target regions, thereby eliminating Bennett's SEQ ID NO:63 as prior art against amended claims 16-19. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments overcome the rejection and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that any discussion of this communication would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 207-571-9365, x-107.

Respectfully submitted,

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